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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORISM; MIDDLE EAST;
ECONOMIC ISSUES/WTO

TERRORISM

1. "Secrets of Sept. 11"
The leading Globe and Mail (7/31) editorialized:
"...The intelligence and technical flaws, many of which were already known or the subject of intense speculation, are detailed in a damning report [the joint U.S. congressional inquiry into the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001] that numbers close to 900 pages. But perhaps the most explosive section, which deals specifically with the possible foreign assistance made available to the 19 suicide hijackers responsible for the attacks, remains secret by order of President George W. Bush.... Although complete transparency is always preferable, there are times when information is simply too sensitive to be made public. This may very well be one of those times."

MIDDLE EAST

2. "Not all fences make for good neighbours"
Foreign affairs columnist Marcus Gee observed in the leading Globe and Mail (7/31): "Good fences make good neighbours, they say. But the security fence that Israel is building around the West Bank could have the opposite effect, further poisoning relations between Israelis and Palestinians and making a peace settlement even harder to reach. Even Israel's closest ally, the United States, thinks the fence is a mistake.... Israel claims that the barrier will keep bombers out and cut the number of Israeli casualties, but even the best fence will not be able to keep out determined terrorists. What it will do is prevent thousands of Palestinians from working inside Israel by making permanent the ban on Palestinians crossing into Israel from the West Bank. The result will be ruin for the already devastated Palestinian economy.... Construction of the fence continues. Eventually it will stretch 700 kilometres and cost \$1.5-billion (U.S.). Israel says it is not a political border, just a security barrier. Perhaps. Perhaps not. What is clear is that it is becoming a serious barrier to peace."

ECONOMIC ISSUES/WTO

3. "Failing the fair trade test"
National affairs writer Jim Travers commented in the liberal Toronto Star (7/31): "After years of confronting protesters in the streets, the World Trade Organization is finally face-to-face with the much more dangerous enemy within. It is now sadly evident that efforts to infuse international trade rules with a little equity and a lot of enlightened self-interest are bumping headlong into more powerful forces.... Unless the U.S. and Europe discover new wisdom and generosity in a trade report to be released in August, the industrialized world will continue to preach the merits of open borders and markets, democracy and the rule of law, while denying developing countries access to lucrative markets and proving that even principles supporting freedom are flexible. Those contradictions are loaded with implications for an international community standing at the cliche of a crossroads.... What's needed now is evidence that those with wealth are willing to share; that rights are universal and inviolate; that security is not the exclusive preserve of the most heavily armed; that the suffering of one is the suffering of all and won't be tolerated. It's a lot to ask of those who have so much and find it so difficult to give so little."

4. "The obligation to succeed"
Editorialist Michle Boisvert wrote in the centrist La Presse (7/30): "Did the 146 WTO member countries get carried away by the enthusiasm present in Doha to the point of underestimating the amount of work to be accomplished? In agriculture alone, the sums involved are gigantic. The total amount of agricultural subsidies is estimated to be \$300 billion, 60 percent of which are export subsidies. It is the EU countries followed by the U.S. who are the champions of agricultural subsidies. In light of the discussions

held in Montreal these two actors do not seem intent on modifying the existing scenario. WTO members have to succeed even if it means pushing back the deadlines in order to establish more realistic calendars.... Major economic powers could very well do without the WTO, but it is quite a different story for developing countries. The WTO is not perfect but it is the only international forum where small countries can be heard just as loudly as the trade giants."

15. "The impossible agreement"

Chief editorialist Jean-Robert Sansfaon wrote in the liberal *Le Devoir* (7/30): "Poor countries are justly demanding the end of the mind-boggling subsidies paid each year to producers by countries like the U.S. and Europe. But yesterday in Montreal, American farmer representatives came to shout loud and make clear their opposition to such a change. For their part, European farmers and their respective governments also refuse any reduction to the assistance received under the Common Agricultural Policy.... There are so many bones of contention in the present cycle of discussions that there is little chance the desired consensus will be reached by the December 2004 deadline.... Because of what is at stake, it is better to push back the deadline a few years than to agree to an agreement which would only benefit some of the most powerful countries."

16. "Weak protests are good news"

The conservative *Montreal Gazette* opined (7/30): "What if they gave a world trade conference, and nobody protested? That's pretty nearly what happened this week in Montreal. Opponents of the World Trade Organization talked big, but could stir up only a few hundred individuals to demonstrate on the streets against a meeting of trade ministers from certain WTO countries.... So the good news this week is 'the system' is tackling some of the issues that fall under the general heading of global social justice. The additional good news is the public, in Canada at least, seems to be coming to accept globalization holds more promise than menace. The bad news is the trade ministers are moving only very slowly on these matters so far. We're almost tempted to suggest what's really needed is a great big street demo - a peaceful one, of course - in support of more globalization, now."

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